

(SENSITIVE)

7 FEB 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : ONE Memorandum, "Communist Reactions to Certain U.S. Courses of Action," 6 February 1967

REFERENCE : TS (Sensitive) No. 185997

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1. The Board of National Estimates yesterday completed its consideration of the memorandum cited above. The ORR representative was [REDACTED]. The memorandum was prepared to estimate Communist reactions to the alternative bombing programs discussed in McNamara IV (The Rolling Thunder Program -- Present and Potential Target Systems).

2. The ONE memorandum essentially finds that none of the bombing programs would force Hanoi to negotiate. It points out, however, that external factors such as the Sino-Soviet dispute, the chaos in China, and problems in maintaining the flow of external assistance could affect Hanoi's attitudes. It also estimates that the USSR might seek to persuade Hanoi to negotiate, but would not try to force it to negotiate. Finally, the memorandum estimates that none of the bombing programs would lead to war with the USSR or China.

3. We believe that the memorandum does not fully spell out the severity of the supply problems which would face Hanoi -- particularly after the mining program and the attack on the dikes. Similarly, the memorandum tends to underestimate the extent to which Hanoi's persistence in the war would necessitate hard and painful decisions about its involvement. The Board felt that these points did not require extensive restatement, since the memorandum is, in effect, a companion piece to McNamara IV, which presented them in considerable detail.

4. On balance, we feel that although the memorandum has the shortcomings mentioned above, they are insufficient to warrant DD/I non-concurrence.

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JAMES N. MORELL, JR.
Director
Research and Reports

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